

February 21, 2017

Dear Honorable members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Ellen Maus and I live in Hadlyme, CT. I am a parent of Michael Maus, age 33, with I/DD. He is autistic, is non-verbal, and has severe global developmental delays. I am testifying on the impact of the Governor's budget on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Until 2 years ago, Michael's dental needs were provided through a private Pediatric Dentistry practice. The dentist who graciously kept him n as a patient way beyond his adolescent years has since left that practice and the dentist who stepped in as a replacement was unable to deal with Michael's behaviors. We were then requested to leave the practice.

Arc NL County and our DDS case manager referred us to DDS Dental Services in Norwich. We have found the hygienist to be so in tuned to the needs of Michael. Her gentle, reassuring, and compassionate nature has been so appreciated and has made a difference in how Michael responds to his office visits. We have been so relieved and grateful to find a dental practice that will graciously accept and respect Michael as an individual and plan and deliver his dental care accordingly. With 1000 clients being serviced through the dental clinic, it is very worrisome how these clients will establish urgent dental care if the office were to close. I cannot imagine where to begin to find a private dentist willing to take on and manage Michael's dental needs. Please preserve funding for the dental clinics and for the physical and occupational therapists who work as a part of the DDS system.

Please restore funding for day and employment services for new graduates. These students have spent many years with programs and services through their school systems. To then graduate and have no program to attend is very sad. Parents then need to make arrangements for coverage and may need to take a leave of absence or terminate their employment in order to care for their adult children. Continued programming is needed!!!

Please restore funding for Family Support Grants. Families need this support to be able to function. The day-to-day stress and energy that is needed takes its toll on families.

Please support Community Residential Supports. Our son has live with us since birth. We are now into our mid-60s and his care takes a toll on our bodies, and it worries us daily where Michael will live when we can no longer care for him.

Please restore funding for new families who need Behavioral Support Services. These families struggle daily trying to manage the needs of their loved one.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,
Ellen Maus
9 Ferry Road
Hadlyme, CT 06439

